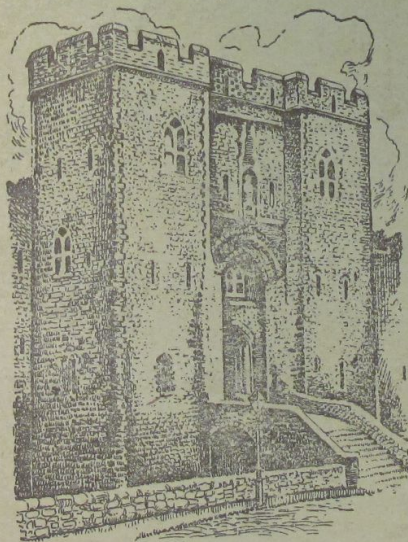




Guide to Carnarvon Castle.



Price 2d.

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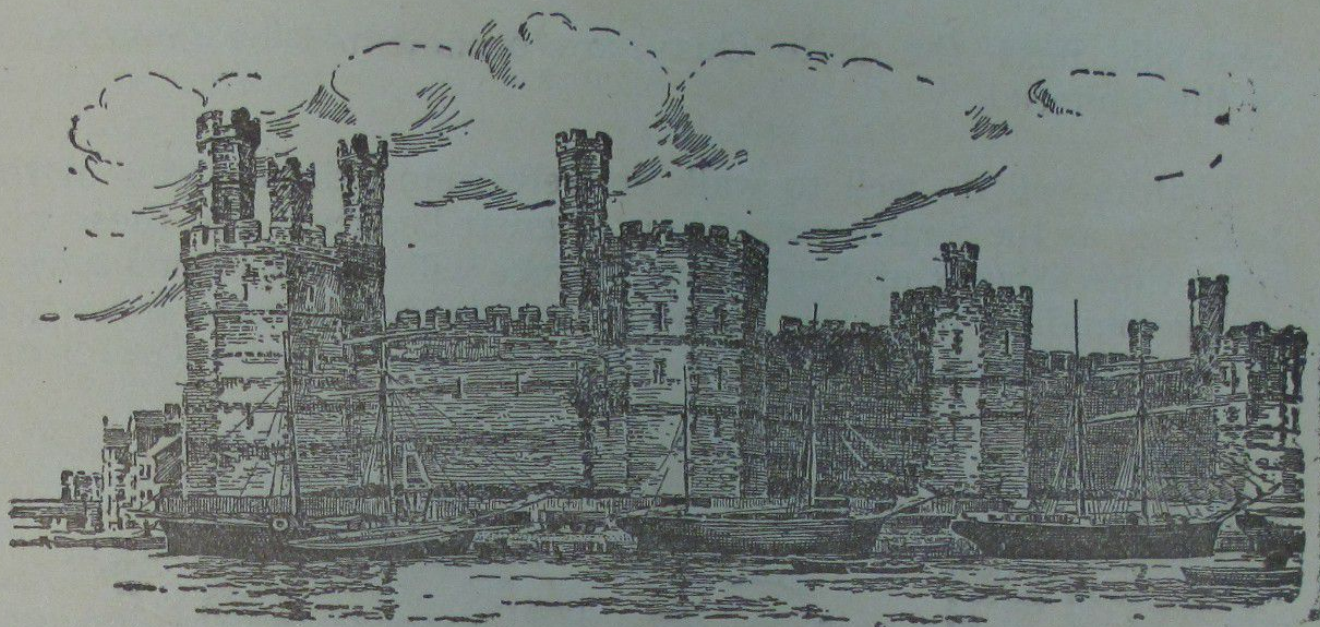
GUIDE
TO
CARNARVON CASTLE

(WITH GROUND PLAN)

COMPILED BY THE LATE
SIR LLEWELYN TURNER,
DEPUTY CONSTABLE.

Price Two Pence.

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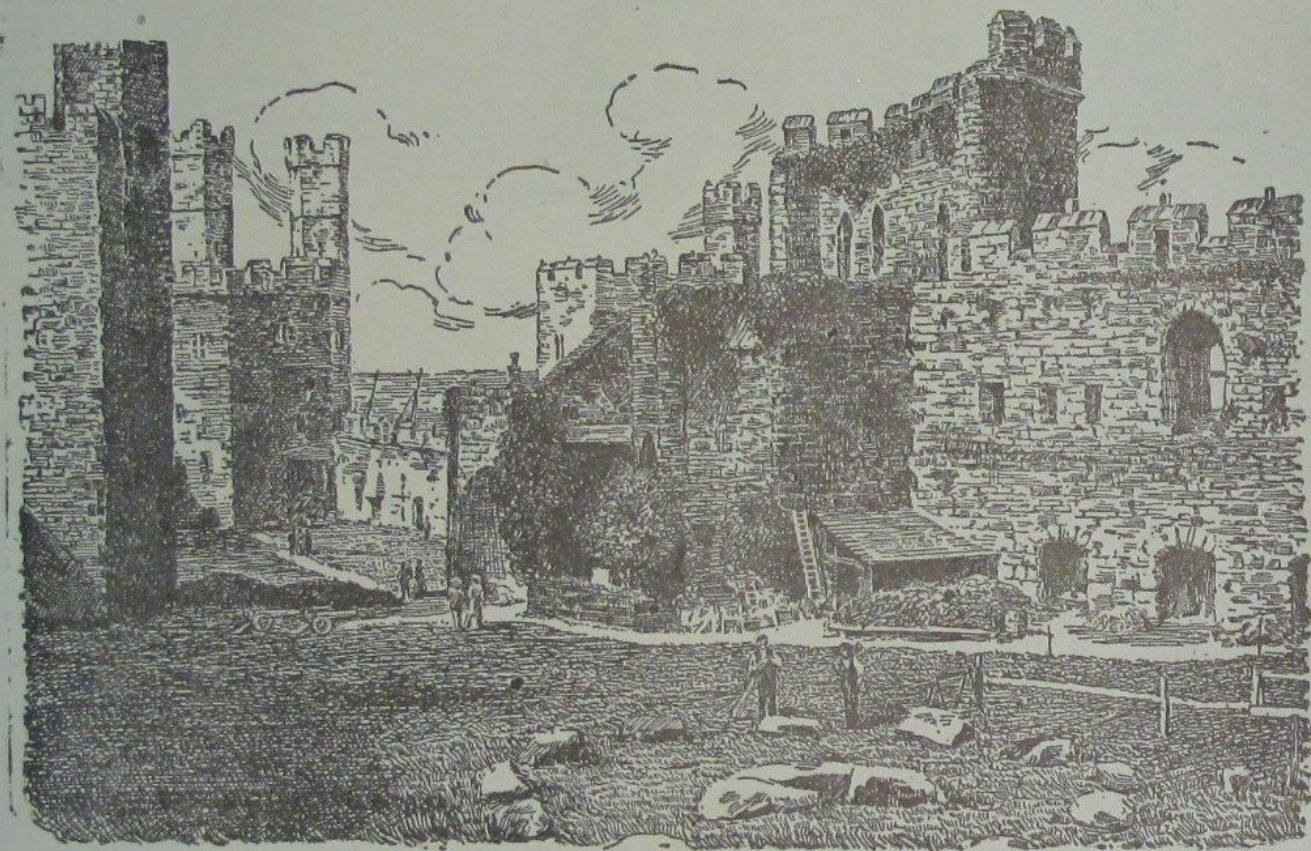
THIS magnificent structure was commenced by King Edward the First, by whom a sufficient portion was erected to shelter a garrison ; and it was subsequently carried to its present altitude by King Edward the Second, who was born in it 25 April, 1284.

This Castle is by far the largest in North Wales, and has been pronounced by competent judges, to be one of the finest in Europe.

It is erected of square block limestone, which has become white with age, the mouldings, doorways, and ornamental work being of brown sandstone. Both ends of the Castle, and the entire South-

west side, next the Slate Quay, are ornamented by three bands of this material.

Visitors will do well to walk entirely round the exterior of the building, as the South-west side is of great beauty ; and those who have time to walk up Segontium Terrace will find a splendid view of the building from the Railway Bridges which cross from that terrace and South Road to the Slate Quay.



A regulation, which might advantageously be applied elsewhere, is adopted with regard to this Castle. Each Visitor pays 4d. on entering, which the Keeper of the Castle pays into the Bank weekly. From this sum the Keeper receives his salary, and the balance is expended in repairs, which are done without the slightest alteration to the structural appearance, which is carefully maintained.

During the last few years, the Castle has undergone very considerable restoration. The towers marked K and L, which were for years inaccessible, have been repaired, and in the turret of the latter tower 83 new steps were placed.

The passages, corridors, and ramparts have been asphalted, and a great portion of the interior of the building pointed. The sandstone used in the repairs is supplied from Talacre, in Flintshire.

The Castle contained a number of very fine apartments, the principal of which in size was the Banqueting Hall, 100 feet by 44, and 40 feet high. The South-west side is traversed, in the thickness of the walls, by corridors which are of considerable height throughout the Royal end of the Castle, and (though far from being low) are of less elevation at the upper or military end. The Castle, which is the property of the Crown is governed by a Constable and Deputy Constable.

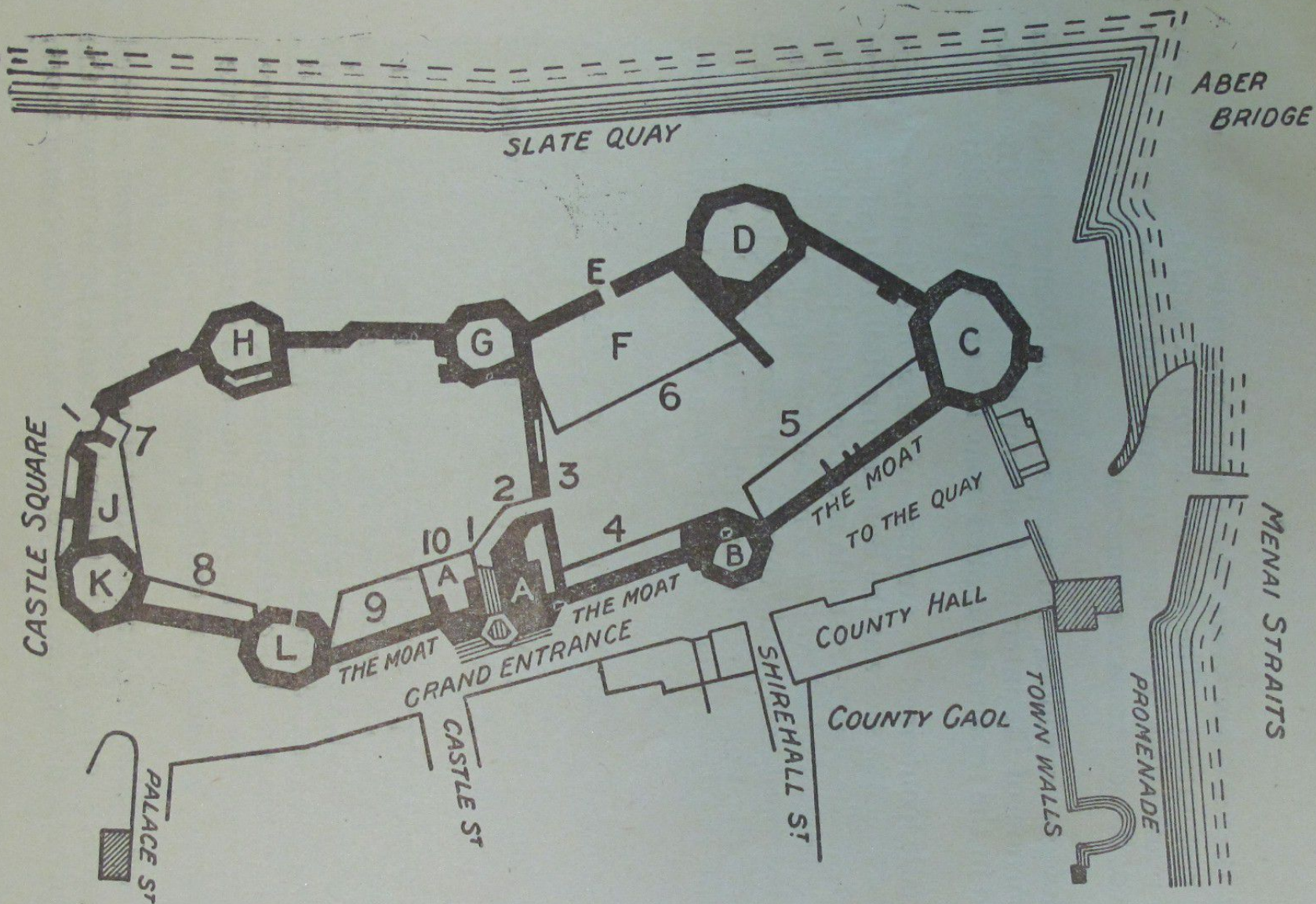
Constable—RIGHT HON. D. LLOYD-GEORGE, M.P.

Deputy Constable—C. A. Jones, Esq., Bronhendre, to whom all applications should be addressed.

To prevent the repetition of the errors of former Guide Books, this has been compiled by the late Deputy Constable (Sir Llewelyn Turner), by whom numbers are placed on iron standards to show the size and shape of the different apartments formally existing in the court yard, which are also marked by lines cut in the grass, corresponding with that on the plan. Each tower is marked by a letter, also corresponding with that on the plan.

Visitors will readily trace the different stories of each tower (reached by the staircases in the turrets attached to each), by looking for the fireplaces of each storey, and the tye beam holes of the several floors.

GROUND PLAN OF CARNARVON CASTLE.



- A. Grand Entrance.
- B. Well Tower.
- C. Eagle Tower.
- D. Queens' Tower.

- E. Corridor.
- F. Banqueting Hall.
- G. Chamberlain's Tower.
- H. Black Tower.

- I. Queen's Gate.
- J. Watch Tower.
- K. Tower.
- L. Granary Tower.

KEY TO THE GROUND PLAN.

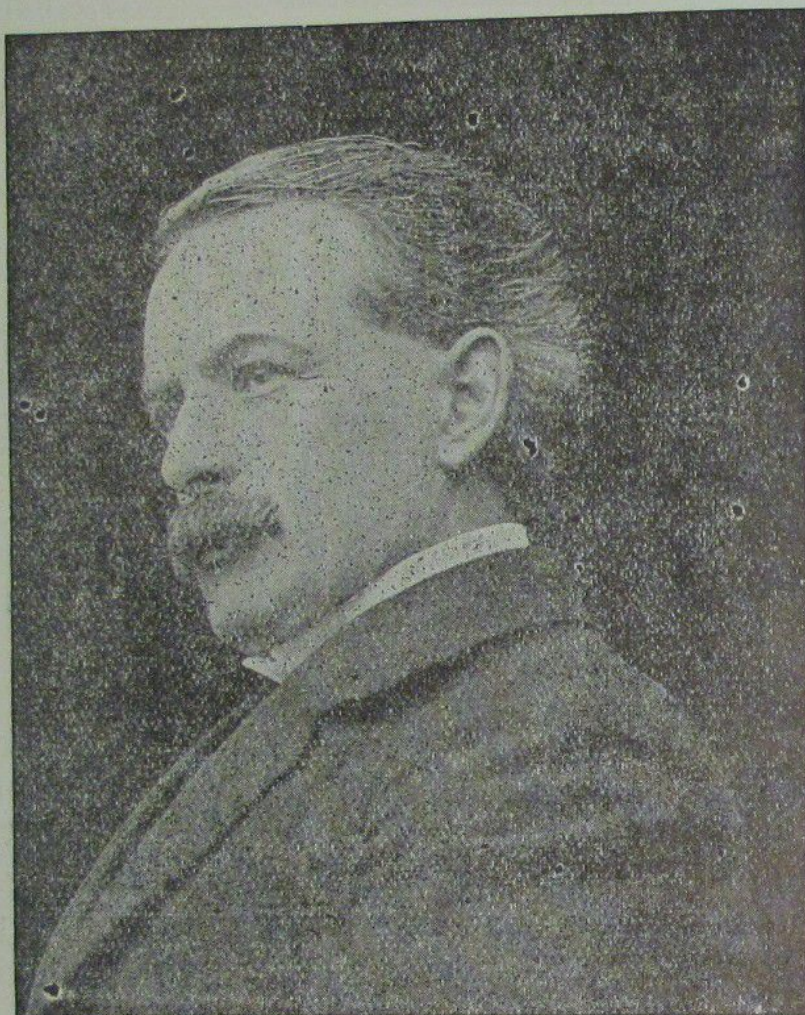
Standing in front of the Grand Entrance, or King's Gate, we see the statue of Edward I above the gateway. The statue, and the elaborate tracery that formerly surrounded, were very perfect in the early part of the 19th century, when they were wilfully damaged.

The Moat, which had for the greatest part of the last century been filled up, has been reopened by the late Deputy Constable (Sir Llewelyn Turner) for a length of about 500 feet, which has restored to the grand facade a great portion of the altitude it had previously lost. At the South-west end, next to the Eagle Tower, the Moat is opened to its original depth, but in the vicinity of the bridge by which the Castle is entered, it has not been opened within 14 feet of its original depth, owing to the difficulty of draining without reopening it for the entire length of the Castle, which would be impossible without taking away a portion of the street nearer to Castle Square. At the same time, some thousands of tons of rubbish were cleared from the interior of the building. The walls are in some places 15 feet in thickness.

A THE ENTRANCE consists of two massive towers, joined by lofty Gothic arches of great beauty. The doors put up by Mr. Morgan, a former Deputy Constable, are in perfect accord with the period of the Castle. They were designed by the late Mr. Savin, and are made from oak grown in Lincolnshire, and dried for two years with great care. The original hinges will be seen in the castle yard.

On each side of the archway, see the grooves of the port cullises, four on the right and three on the left (a portion of the wall on the latter side being destroyed). On either side see guard rooms, and the remains of a third room where the wall is gone.

Over the guard-rooms, to the right and left of the arches, are two fine rooms (probably the governor's sleeping apart-



THE RIGHT HONOURABLE D. LLOYD GEORGE, M.P.
[CONSTABLE OF THE CASTLE].



CHARLES A. JONES, ESQ.
[DEPUTY CONSTABLE OF THE CASTLE.]

ments), with handsome fire-places. Over the archway are an oratory, and a room for hoisting the bridge, the whole being surmounted by the Governor's Hall, the fine windows of which, about 13 feet high, remain on the North front; the back wall, which no doubt contained similar windows, is destroyed.

Turning thence to the right, past the house of the keeper of the Castle, see two more portcullis grooves, the wall that supported the archway, and continued the grooves on the left, being unfortunately destroyed.

- 1 The figure 1 placed at intervals will be found to denote the whole site of the missing piece of wall, on the left side as far as the termination of the first arches and the fourth portcullis.
- 2 The figure 2 will be found to denote continuation of the wall, which contained the grooves on the left side of the two portcullises leading to the Royal apartments.
- 3 The figure 3 will be found to denote the wall dividing the two courts; a portion of which also forms the East end of the Banqueting Hall.
- 4 The figure 4 denotes the missing wall of the Kitchen and Buttery.
- 5 The figure 5 denotes the missing walls of four apartments formerly attached to the Eagle Tower, the divisions of which will readily be distinguished by the projecting stones.
- 6 The figure 6 denotes the walls of the magnificent Banqueting Hall, which have been exposed by digging, and the removal of rubbish, a few years ago.
- 7 The figure 7 denotes the inner line of defence of Queen Eleanor's Gate, and the remains of the arch and portcullis grooves at the South-west side.

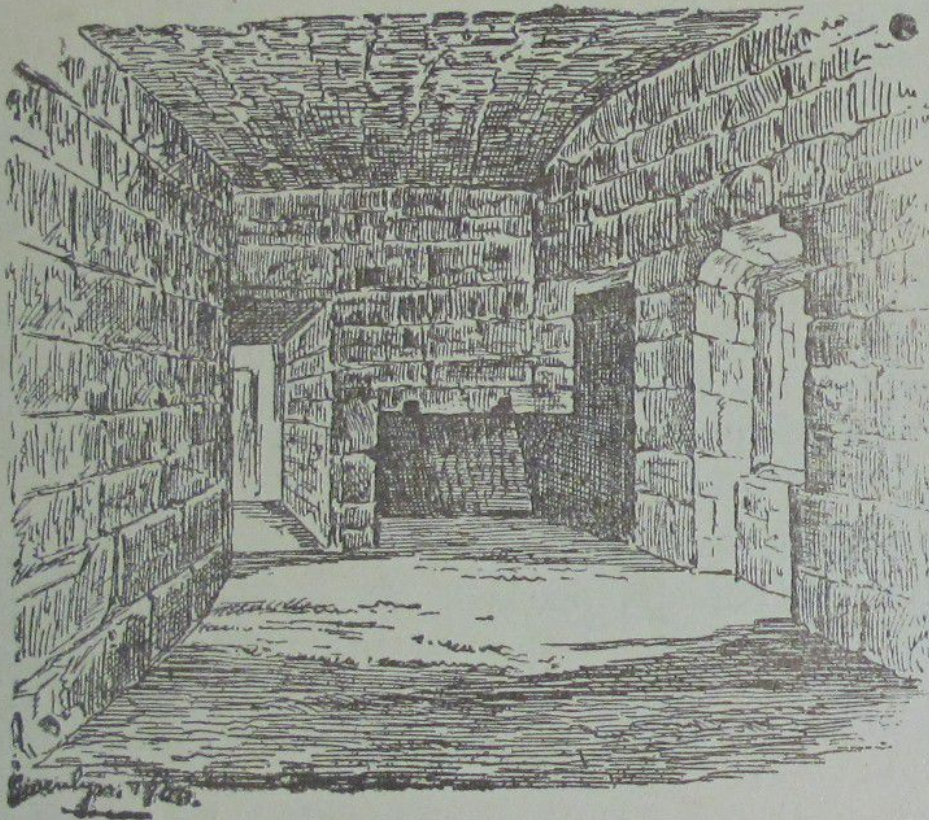
- 8 The figure 8 denotes the missing wall of a guard-room, with a fine apartment above, in the military court, between the towers K and L.
- 9 The figure 9 denotes another guard-room, with a fine apartment above, of the same kind as No. 8.
- 10 The figure 10 denotes the missing portion of the left tower of entrance, in the military court, which formed a guard-room, through which a passage was obtained to the military end from the King's Gate.

B THE WELL TOWER, after leaving the Grand Entrance, passing the Kitchen (4). This tower contains a doorway to a draw-bridge over the moat, with a large guard-room, and three stories of apartments, with ante-rooms. The Well, from which the lower part of the Castle was supplied with water, is a portion of this tower, from which lead pipes can be traced to a trough in the Kitchen.

C THE EAGLE TOWER.—Proceeding onwards to the right, past the Apartments marked (5) on the ground plan, the Visitor reaches the entrance of the far-famed *Eagle Tower*, marked C., with three elegant slender turrets issuing at the top.

This tower contains a lower basement, three fine apartments above with numerous ante-chambers, in one of the latter of which, in the year 1284, was born King Edward the Second, surnamed Edward of Carnarvon, the first Prince of Wales in the English line. The room in which he is said to have been born measures 12 feet by 8. The room has a stained-glass window overlooking the Straits, and also a fireplace. The entrance to it is through a narrow doorway on the right hand side of the winding staircase leading up the tower, 37 steps from the outside step at bottom. Following the passage leading from this door, the Visitor will easily distinguish the room, which is one of the ante-rooms of the large room contained in the tower.

The altitude of the Eagle Tower is 124 feet above high water, and 158 steps lead to the top of this noble edifice. From the summit a charming view may be had of the broad face of the Menai, the Isle of Anglesey, the great Snowdonian range



THE ROOM IN WHICH THE FIRST PRINCE OF WALES WAS BORN.

of mountains from Carnedd Llewelyn on the left to the furthest peak of the Rivals on the right a splendid panoramic scene of the fertile plains of Arvon, together with a bird's eye view of the town and surrounding neighbourhood.

D THE QUEEN'S TOWER, which formed part of the Royal apartments, contains three fine rooms on the ground, first and

second floors, with ante-rooms. The ground floor being a Freemason's hall. The turret of this tower has recently undergone complete renovation, and a number of new steps added.

E THE CORRIDOR, leading, in the thickness of the wall from the Queen's to the Chamberlain's Tower, the windows of which looked, as did those of a corridor above, into F.

F THE BANQUETING HALL, which had a raised dais at the south east end, concealing a postern gate leading to the Harbour. This gate was discovered when the rubbish was removed. It will readily be found by the Visitor.

G THE CHAMBERLAINS' TOWER.—This tower is opposite the Grand Entrance. It contains three stories of apartments, with ante-rooms, corridors, &c.

H THE BLACK TOWER.—This tower, which was in very bad condition, has been renovated, including the removal of some former bad repair. The rooms are the smallest in the Castle. The turret, which was inaccessible owing to destruction of steps, is now being fully restored, and many new steps of Talacre stone placed in it.

I QUEEN ELEANOR'S GATE, composed of two great towers, and of Gothic arches at a great elevation from the ground outside. This beautiful entrance was formerly approached by a draw-bridge. Tradition (which there is no reason to doubt) points out this as the gate by which the Queen entered the Castle to be confined of the 2nd Edward, and from this point the young Prince is said to have been presented by the King to the Welsh people. The gateway was not then erected to its present height. Viewed from Castle Square and Segontium Terrace, this archway is of splendid elevation. The upper portion of this gateway has been made accessible by new steps.

J A beautiful turret, which commanded the hillock now cut down, and forming Castle Square.

K The name of this tower is unknown. It contains two good apartments, a corridor, &c. The chimneys and fireplaces were restored, and a number of new steps placed in the tower and turrets, and the tops of both asphalted and made accessible in 1882, after being inaccessible for many years.

L This was probably the GRANARY TOWER. It contains large cellars, and three stories of good apartments. This tower and its turret were, in very bad repair, and were cracked on two sides. In 1883, it underwent such thorough repair that the cracks cannot now be traced; 83 new steps were placed in the tower and turret, and the top asphalted and made perfectly accessible, which it had not been for ages. This tower has within it a curious arch, branching off into several others, above a deep well, which was probably a grain store, the hoisting place of which has also been restored.

In the Castle yard will be seen a Russian gun, captured at Sebastopol in 1855. The brass pieces outside, named respectively Codicioso and Escarabajo, are Spanish pieces, which were presented by Thomas Assheton Smith, Esq., of Vaynol, to the town of Carnarvon.

The Castle was erected to secure the king's hold on the Welsh people, and was clearly intended as the future residence of the Prince of Wales.

It was garrisoned for King Charles the First during the Civil War, which terminated so disastrously to him. The Governor, Lord Byron, after an able defence, surrendered to the Parliamentary Army.

THE TOWN WALLS AND PROMENADE.

The Promenade extends along the Menai, on the North-west side of the Town Walls, which are very perfect. After leaving the Castle, the first tower passed forms a portion of the County Gaol ; next is the Royal Welsh Yacht Club House, formerly the West or Golden Gate of the town. At the North end of the Wall, about 300 yards from the Castle, easily reached by the promenade, is the Chapel of St. Mary, used by Royalty before the Castle was built. There Edward II. was christened on St. Mark's Day, 1284, by Anian, Bishop of Bangor.

From St. Mary's Church the Town Walls turns to the south-east, but is surrounded by modern buildings. The centre towers on the land side form the Guild Hall, where the municipal business is transacted ; and the wall rejoins the Castle on this side. The sea originally reached almost as far as the Eastgate, in the direction beyond St. Mary's Church.



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